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# CENTRAL MONTANA LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER COOPERATIVE

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Lewistown, MT 59457

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June 7, 2016

Dear Members of the School Funding Interim Commission,

As representatives of the Management Board of the Central Montana Learning Resource Center Cooperative (CMLRCC), we seek your support of the special education funding provisions recommended by the State Special Education Cooperative Task Force.

Given our mandate to provide a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities under IDEA, we find current levels of State special education funding:

- wholly inadequate to meet our needs.
- negatively impacting the provision of education for all students by decreasing the amount of general funds available to support general education programming.
- creating inequitable access to services in our rural communities.
- in need of a long-term fix.

We value:

- the provision of a sustainable high quality education for all students.
- the services of our special education cooperative to meet the instructional and related service needs of students with disabilities throughout our six-county region.

We seek your support of these essential Task Force recommendations:

- mandatory annual inflationary increases for special education identified in statutory language with other education appropriations subject to such increases.
- increased monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure as proposed, without reducing payments for the Instructional Services Block Grant, Related Services Block Grant, and the Disproportionate Cost Reimbursement.

Thank you,

Management Board of the Central Montana Learning Resource Center Cooperative

SERVING SPECIAL STUDENTS IN  
FERGUS, WHEATLAND, GOLDEN VALLEY, PETROLEUM, MUSSELSHELL AND  
JUDITH BASIN COUNTIES

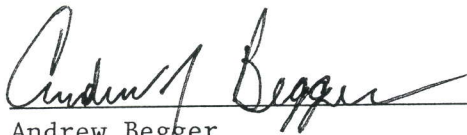
MEMBERS OF THE  
CENTRAL MONTANA LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER COOPERATIVE  
MANAGEMENT BOARD  
June 7, 2016



Walter Stevens  
Winnett Public Schools



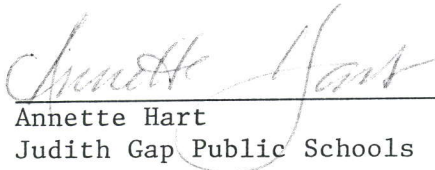
Jason Butcher  
Lewistown Public Schools



Andrew Begger  
Harlowton Public Schools



Denise Chrest  
Moore Public Schools

  
Annette Hart  
Judith Gap Public Schools

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